

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 1-10 with the following amended paragraph:

Due to the popularity of the World Wide Web, a number of tools and third-party systems are readily available for the distribution, management, and transformation of documents. Accordingly, ~~Standard~~ standard off-the-shelf web security and management solutions designed for the World Wide Web can be used to secure and manage the management system itself, including its documents. These tools include, but are not limited to, a document management system with proper version control, a document security system for access control, and a document editing and query subsystem. The documents themselves may also be made available via the World Wide Web. The specific choices of security and management tools for the system are open to implementers of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 29 to page 11, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The extensible markup language (XML), with related standards and tools, provides a preferred platform for implementation of the invention. In sum, XML is a set of conventions for designating a textual format for data and a common syntax for expressing structure in data. However, any document formatting language could be used with appropriate modifications. SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) and HTML (~~Hyer~~Hyper Text Markup Language) are examples of other document formatting languages. More sophisticated format languages, such as the XML Schema language, can be used to replace the simple Document Type Definition (DTD) language to describe more complex type hierarchies